Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for separating a hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell from a cell population, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

a) detecting the expression of a WT1 gene or of a reporter gene linked to a WT1 promoter in a cell in a cell population; and

b) separating the cell ~~in which~~ from the cell population if expression of the WT1 gene ~~was~~ or reporter gene is detected, thereby separating a hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell from a cell population.

2. (Withdrawn) A method for simultaneously separating at least two progenitor cells from a cell population, wherein the progenitor cells are selected from hepatic, endothelial, and hematopoietic progenitor cells, and wherein the method comprises the steps of:

a) detecting the expression of a WT1 gene in a cell in a cell population comprising at least two progenitor cells, selected from hepatic, endothelial, and hematopoietic progenitor cells; and

b) separating the cells in which expression of the WT1 gene was detected.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises detection of expression of the ~~WT1 gene is detected by using expression of a WT1 gene or of a~~ reporter gene ~~linked to a WT1 promoter as an indicator~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the reporter gene is a lacZ gene or green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene, and expression of the reporter gene is detected by a FACS assay.

5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 12, wherein a hepatic progenitor cell or an endothelial progenitor cell is separated when the expression level of the WT1 gene is in the range of 2.21 ($\pm$1.62) x 10^{-2} (when expression of the WT1 gene in a K562 leukemia cell line is defined as 1), and a hematopoietic progenitor cell is separated when the expression level of the WT1 gene is in the range of 3.54 ($\pm$3.39) x 10^{-4} (when expression of the WT1 gene in a K562 leukemia cell line is defined as 1).

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein expression of the WT1 gene is detected by using expression of a WT1 gene or of a reporter gene linked to a WT1 promoter as an indicator.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the reporter gene is a lacZ gene or GFP gene, and expression of the reporter gene is detected by a FACS assay.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein a hepatic progenitor cell or an endothelial progenitor cell is separated when the expression level of the WT1 gene is in the range of 2.21 ($\pm$1.62) x 10^{-2} (when expression of the WT1 gene in a K562 leukemia cell line is defined as 1), and a hematopoietic progenitor cell is separated when the expression level of the WT1 gene is in the range of 3.54 ($\pm$3.39) x 10^{-4} (when expression of the WT1 gene in a K562 leukemia cell line is defined as 1).

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell is a hepatic progenitor cell.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell is an endothelial progenitor cell.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatic, endothelial, or hematopoietic progenitor cell is a hematopoietic progenitor cell.

12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises quantifying an expression level of the WT1 gene in the cell.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is viable.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the separating step comprises use of FACS sorting.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising culturing the separated cell of step (b) in a culture under conditions suitable for permitting proliferation of a hepatic progenitor cell.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising culturing the separated cell of step (b) under conditions suitable for permitting proliferation of a endothelial progenitor cell.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising culturing the separated cell of step (b) under conditions suitable for permitting proliferation of a hematopoietic progenitor cell.